



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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Policy Advisory Council
January 14, 2015
Minutes

Amy Rein Worth, Chair
Cities of Contra Costa County

Dave Cortese, Vice Chair
Santa Clara County

Alicia C. Aguirre
Cities of San Mateo County

Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Jason Baker
Cities of Santa Clara County

Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County

David Campos
City and County of San Francisco

Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Scott Haggerty
Alameda County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

Sam Liccardo
San Jose Mayor's Appointee

Mark Luce
Napa County and Cities

Jake Mackenzie
Sonoma County and Cities

Julie Pierce
Association of Bay Area Governments

Bijan Sartipi
California State
Transportation Agency

James P. Spring
Solano County and Cities

Adrienne J. Tissier
San Mateo County

Vacant
Oakland Mayor's Appointee

Scott Wiener
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Alix Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

Chair Cathleen Baker called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Policy Advisory Council members in attendance were: Naomi Armenta, Caroline Bañuelos, Jim Blacksten, Richard Burnett, Carlos Castellanos, Wilbert Din, Veda Florez, Bob Glover, Charles Kaufman, Randi Kinman, Shireen Malekafzali, Mark Nicholson, Mike Pechner, Gerald Rico, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Benjamin Schweng, and Alan Talansky. **Excused:** Elizabeth Clary, Sandi Galvez, Jerry Levine, and Harriet Wolf. **Absent:** JoAnn Busenbark and Richard Hedges. MTC Commissioner Giacomini was also in attendance.

Elections for 2015 Policy Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Baker invited the candidates for chair and vice chair to make a statement prior to the election. Carlos Castellanos and Randi Kinman provided information on their background and past work with the Council and previous work with the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee. Alan Talansky stated he understands the responsibilities of being a chair and would be honored to serve. Upon vote by a show of hands, Randi Kinman was elected chair. The vote was eight to five, with three abstentions.

Chair Baker then withdrew Ms. Kinman's name from consideration for vice chair and opened up the floor for additional nominations for vice chair. Upon vote by a show of hands, Carlos Castellanos was elected vice chair. The vote was nine to five, with two abstentions.

Ms. Baker then turned the meeting over to Ms. Kinman to chair the rest of the meeting.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Linda Jeffery Sailors and a second by Veda Florez.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Ken Bukowski stated that videos of the Policy Advisory Council meetings are posted to his regional video website at <http://regional-video.com/>.

Mr. David Denton provided background comments and requested the Council review the funding MTC is providing for gentrification reports.

Regional Goods Movement Plan Update

MTC Principal Planner Carolyn Clevenger presented an update on the Regional Goods Movement Plan. The Council had clarifying questions and the following comments:

- Mike Pechner stated that Highway 29 in Napa County is an extremely congested corridor, but it does run freight (the Napa Wine Train), and he asked why it is not addressed in the plan. He also requested MTC examine why SMART has taken out spurs in Marin and Sonoma County.
- In response to a question by Carlos Castellanos, Ms. Clevenger stated staff has not heard anything about passenger rail being affected by an increase in crude oil traffic. Staff has seen an increase in the percentage of petroleum product moved by rail. However, shippers have mentioned challenges getting service here due to high equipment demand in the middle and northeast areas of the country.
- In response to Linda Jeffery Sailors' question about restricting truck goods movement to off-peak hours, Ms. Clevenger noted the bulk of the discussion has centered around port operations (such as operating Port of Oakland night gates). While it is a complicated issue – since truckers don't want to be driving during commute hours but many times are restricted due to local ordinances or commercial business delivery times – MTC is looking into possible policy levers that could allow goods movement to occur during off-peak hours.
- Bob Glover questioned whether conversion of industrial land to commercial and residential development was actually a problem. He commented that there are only isolated incidents of land use conflict between the two. He pointed out that it's important to differentiate between the two and they are not the same. He further cautioned against setting a path that will lead to further restrictions on housing supply since housing supply is our number one issue.
- Randi Kinman requested MTC look at the economic impact a 25% increase in crude deliveries would have in urban areas. She also requested staff track the through-put deliveries as opposed to localized deliveries.
- Gerald Rico cautioned against restricting truck goods movement to off-peak hours because if an accident were to occur, it could be difficult to receive the necessary help.

Ms. Clevenger stated an update on strategies will be presented to the Council later in the year, and a draft report will be available in the fall.

During public comment, Mr. Roland Lebrun suggested MTC take a look at the existing pipeline network with the goal of having the pipelines work together. Additionally, Mr. Lebrun suggested the oil terminals should be placed as far north as possible to mitigate major catastrophes.

Active Transportation Program Update

Kenneth Kao gave the Council background information on the Active Transportation Program and also gave an update on the next cycle of funding. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

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Active Transportation Program Update (continued)

- In response to Naomi Armenta's comment regarding the inconsistency in the first cycle's applications, Mr. Kao commented that MTC is looking closely at how to improve the application process and the scoring criteria. Additionally, MTC is looking to have more involvement from the county congestion management agencies.
- In response to Ms. Armenta's inquiry about whether projects would be eligible to receive partial funding, Mr. Kao informed the Council that partial funding will depend on how many applications are received and which projects are a good match for partial funding.
- In response to Cathleen Baker's inquiry about a more standardized cost-benefit analysis, Mr. Kao stated that Caltrans is working on a standardized cost-benefit analysis model that they are hoping will allow for an effortless application comparison.
- In response to Shireen Malekafzali's question about technical assistance, Mr. Kao stated that although MTC does not have a formal technical assistance program, there will be workshops held in addition to staff being available to advise applicants as to whether an application looks strong or if it needs work.

Fuel Extraction Tax Discussion

Policy Advisory Council member Alan Talansky reported his draft findings on the possibility of a fuel extraction tax as a future MTC legislative proposal. He informed the Council that under a current state fuel extraction tax proposal, all of the funds would go to education and state parks. No funds would go to transportation or housing.

In response to concerns raised about what can be done to build a coalition in favor of a gas tax, Mr. Talansky responded that assembling a broad constituency will be key, as well as having a good strategy. Concern was also expressed about the need for mitigation and emergency funds if there is fracking. Mr. Talansky replied that a percentage of funds could be set aside, placed into a trust fund, and distributed as needed.

The Council thanked Mr. Talansky for his research and his informative presentation.

Cathleen Baker made a motion to create an ad hoc subcommittee to discuss strategies, next steps, work further on Mr. Talansky's draft report, and bring something back to the Council in the hopes of making a final presentation to the Commission for consideration in next year's Legislative Program. Charles Kaufman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Talansky will collaborate with Pam Grove of MTC staff to establish the subcommittee.

During public comment, Mr. Lebrun supported the idea of a percentage as opposed to a fixed amount per gallon or barrel. He also suggested the ad hoc subcommittee look at what other states are doing in order to remain competitive. Mr. Lebrun urged the Council to look forward to the possibility of fracking in the Monterey Shale and how oil might be exported.

Staff Liaison Report

Pam Grove went over the highlights of the staff liaison report. Ms. Grove noted the Youth for the Environment and Sustainability (YES) Conference will be held February 7 at MTC. More information of the YES Conference can be found on the MTC web site. She also mentioned that applications for the three vacancies on the Policy Advisory Council are due by February 9, 2015.

Council Member Reports

- Alan Talansky reported that the Environmental Impact Report for the electrification of Caltrain was passed unanimously by the agency's Board of Directors. Mr. Talansky also announced the Station Park Green project in San Mateo was approved by the city's Planning Commission; it still needs to be approved by the City Council.
- Veda Florez mentioned the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area will be hosting a climate change event on January 31 at the MTC offices. Annie Notthoff of the Natural Resources Defense Council will be the keynote speaker. The event is \$35 and is open to the public. To register, go to the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area website.
- Randi Kinman announced the City Council of San Jose unanimously voted to submit a letter objecting to the proposed development and increase of the system in San Louis Obispo County that would require them to be shipping hundreds of new cars full of crude through her community.

New Business

Veda Florez requested an update on the 2006 proposal for consistent signage for multi-modal transportation.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m. The next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for February 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 101 8th Street, Oakland, California.